

18. (amended) The photoresist of claim 12 wherein the resin binder comprises a polymer that contains pendant photoacid labile moieties and is completely [substantially] free of any aromatic groups.

Please cancel claims 2 and 6 without prejudice.

REMARKS

Claims 1, 12 and 18 have been amended and claims 2 and 6 have been cancelled without prejudice. No new matter has been added by virtue of the amendments. For instance, support for the amendments appears in the original claims of the application.

Claims 1-7 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Claims 6, 8 and 18 also were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1-5, 9-17 and 19-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Ohsawa (U.S. Patent 5,847,218). The rejection is traversed.

Claims 1-5, 9-17 and 19-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Watanabe (U.S. Patent 5,876,900).

For the sake of brevity, these two rejections are addressed in combination.

While Applicants fully disagree with the rejections, it is also believed the rejections have been obviated by the amendments made herein. In particular, independent claims 1 and 12 recite features of claims 6 and 18 respectively, which claims 6 and 18 were not rejected over the above documents. In view thereof, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are requested.